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RAGE 2099
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$1.25 US
$1.60 CAN
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IS HE MAN OR BEAST?

FIELD REPORT

FROM: COMMANDER ALEC DU PLEDGE

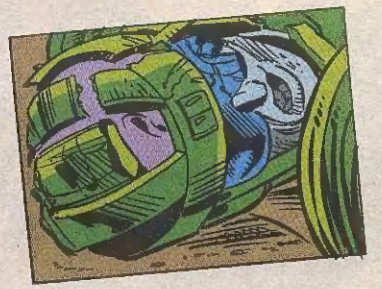
TO: DARRYL KING, C.E.O. ECO CENTRAL

PRELIMINARY POST MORTEM ANALYSIS OF OFFICERS SLAIN IN "BARRIO-BEAST" ATTACK.

OFFICER 1. MUNCEY, JAMES.

MAJOR LACERATIONS AND DISRUPTION OF INTERNAL ORGANS APPARENTLY BY ANIMAL CLAWS THROUGH BULLET-PROOF ARMOR.

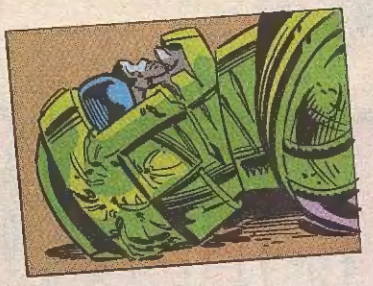
NO KNOWN ANIMAL WOULD BE CAPABLE OF CAUSING SUCH DAMAGE. THIS INDICATES THE CREATURE MAY BE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL IN ORIGIN.



OFFICER 2. STAINES, BRIAN.

MASSIVE BLOW TO SIDE OF HEAD BY CLAWED FOOT. SNAPPED NECK AND DISLOCATED THREE UPPER VERTEBRAE.

MINUTE SKIN, HAIR AND BLOOD SAMPLES APPARENTLY LEFT BY "THE BEAST" HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO GENE ANALYSIS AND SUGGEST STRIKING SIMILARITIES WITH MODERN MAN.



OFFICER 3. MOSS, DAVID.

ABDOMEN PUNCTURED BY THE ANIMAL'S FACIAL HORNS. DEATH INSTANTANEOUS BY MASSIVE SHOCK.

BITE MARKS THROUGH CHROME STEEL HELMET. COMPUTER ANALYSIS SHOWS THE BITE PATTERN RESEMBLES JAW CONFIGURATION OF *MEGANTHROPUS*—A DISTANT ANCESTOR OF MODERN MAN.

RAVAGE 2099™ Vol. 1, No. 12, November, 1993. (ISSN #1067-9553) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.60 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $15.00 U.S.; $27.00 foreign; and Canadian subscribers must add $6.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. RAVAGE 2099 (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO RAVAGE 2099, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. PRINTED IN USA.

Scanned By GOTHMAN
For The HaCsA Halloween Flood 2002

VIDEO RECORD OF CREATURE — SEE APPENDIX 1.
JUDGING BY HOLOTRONIC IMAGING OF THE BEAST, IT IS FLAME-RETARDANT, FASTER THAN ANY KNOWN ANIMAL AND APPROXIMATELY TWENTY TIMES STRONGER THAN A NORMAL MAN.
NATURE OF THE BEAST

PAT MILLS & TONY SKINNER — STORY
GRANT MIEHM — PENCILER
KEITH WILLIAMS — INKER
PHIL FELIX — LETTERER
GINA GOING — COLORIST
JOEY CAVALIERI — EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO — ZOOKEEPER

JOHN CLAUDE RAVAGE
GOOD-BYE, SON...
IT'S GOOD TO BE WITH YOU, DAD. I JUST WISH IT COULD HAVE BEEN UNDER HAPPIER CIRCUM-STANCES.
THANKS, PAUL-PHILIP. I APPRECIATE IT.
YEAH--REAL GOOD TO SEE YOU, PAUL-PHILIP. PITY YOU COULDN'T HAVE GOT HERE TEN YEARS EARLIER.
NOW, MIRANDA. LET IT GO. WE HAVE TO THINK OF THE FUTURE.
THAT'S ALL I THINK OF. MINE'S BEEN HANDED ON A PLATE TO YOUR PRODIGAL SON HERE...
...WHEN YOU MADE HIM HEAD OF GREEN GLOBE!

LOOK, MIRANDA... I DIDN'T COME HERE LOOKING FOR POWER AND ADVANTAGE.
I'D RATHER HAVE NOTHING AND JOHN-CLAUDE STILL ALIVE.
YOU KNOW-- THE CONVENIENT BIT WHERE YOU CAME INTO YOUR BROTHER'S OFFICE WHEN SOME TECH-CHIP ON LEGS WAS DUMPING HIM IN THE GARBAGE BIN.
YES... ABOUT THAT... JUST TALK ME THROUGH THE EVENTS AGAIN...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ALEC?
NOW LOOK, DUPLEDGE -- I KNOW YOU'RE BITTER ABOUT MY REAPPEARING ON THE SCENE. BUT MY INNOCENCE IS NO LONGER IN DOUBT.
ON THAT COUNT, MAY-BE. BUT YOU'RE TECHNICALLY STILL ON ALCHEMAX'S WANTED LIST.
AND I BET YOU'D JUST LOVE TO TAKE ME IN!
DON'T TALK TO MY FIANCÉ LIKE THAT!
FIANCÉ, HUH? AND YOU THINK I'VE BEEN MOVING IN FAST.
I CAME THROUGH THE RANKS, STEP BY STEP; I DON'T ASK FOR FAVORS. IF MIRANDA WANTS ME, THAT'S BE-CAUSE I'M THE BEST.

NOW, LOOK... I'VE JUST LOST A SON... I'M NOT LOSING ANOTHER AND A FUTURE SON-IN-LAW BECAUSE OF YOU TWO HOTHEADS.
WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH EACH OTHER.
I GUESS DAD'S RIGHT, ALEC... WE SHOULD ALL CALM DOWN A BIT.
SURE, HONEY... ANYTHING YOU SAY.
ANYTHING...? OKAY-- THE MOUSTACHE GOES.
MY 'STACHE? IT'S A MARK OF RESPECT AMONGST MY MEN.
WELL, ALEC... UNLESS YOU'RE TAKING YOUR MEN TO DINNER TONIGHT INSTEAD OF ME...
OKAY. CONSIDER IT GONE.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE COMING 'ROUND, MIRANDA...
I MIGHT BE HOT-HEADED, BUT I'M NOT STUPID, DADDY.
AAAHHH! NO! SOMEBODY HELP ME!
MIRANDA-- WHAT IS IT?
YOU'RE NOT MY FATHER!
DIE, HUMAN SCUM!
WH--WHERE'S MIRANDA? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HER?

BULLPEN BULLETINS

TOM TALKS

People often accuse Marvel of producing too many comic books. They say that no one can afford all our terrific titles.

I guess that's a compliment. After all, no one cares about missing comics they don't enjoy.

Unfortunately, these complaints have some validity, and it's high time I explained the method to our madness. We love each and every one of you. Without our loyal fans, Marvel Comics couldn't exist. We produce the very best comics we can because we know that's the secret to entertaining you. We also know that your tastes are always changing, and that you're always looking for something new.

That's why we're constantly experimenting with unusual storylines, offbeat concepts, and wild new directions for our established titles ... as well as continually offering you a selection of all-new, all-different comic books.

I don't want you to think that we'd ever intentionally put quantity over quality. Unfortunately, not every title comes out as well as envisioned. While we always have our share of major blockbusters, some of these new titles only appeal to a select audience. Others fail to appeal to anyone. Some work. Some don't. That's what happens when you experiment as often as we do.

We also get a real kick out of giving new writers and artists a chance to strut their stuff. Major talents like **Mark Bagley, Ron Lim** and **John Romita, Jr.** don't suddenly explode on the scene. They develop over a period of years, involving constant hard work. If our comics line wasn't so big, new talent would never have an opportunity of seeing print.

Sure, I guess we could always play it safe. We could publish proven concepts ... with popular characters ... by top creators. Every title would be a blockbuster, and we'd never have a failure.

But ... what's the fun in that?!

Thanks for being there,

Tom D.

Tom D.

It was the heat wave of the century!

Well, not really, but after overhyping the blizzard of the century a few months back, we felt obligated to do likewise for this past summer's heat blast. The heat wave kicked off on the East Coast in June, with an intensity hotter than all three Infinity crossovers put together! At one point, the heat was so intense, even Iceman worked up a sweat!

Of course, while half the country was melting, the other half was drowning under the most devastating floods since Thor and Storm got together for a rain dance! We asked our frying freelancers how they managed to beat the heat this summer. Here's what they had to say.

Penciler/inker **John Czop,** currently sticking to your walls in the all-new SPIDER-WOMAN limited series, believes that if an artist can't stand the heat, he should get out of the studio. Said John, "I went to my girlfriend's house to work, because she's got air-conditioning!"

Other artists never had to set foot outdoors. SPIDER-MAN 2099's inker, **Al Williamson,** said "I met my deadlines in an air-conditioned studio!" SECRET DEFENDERS penciler **Tom Grindberg** also stayed safely indoors, "watching my grass turn a pretty crispy shade of brown!" Tom also let slip the secret that he will soon be permanently taking over the penciling chores of WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH!

Glynis Oliver, who colors X-FACTOR, said her solution to the summer swelter was to go jump in a lake! Glynis noted that "All the fans in town sold out! You couldn't buy a fan!" Fortunately here at Marvel, we don't have to buy our fans — we've got enough fans of our comics to keep us cool!

Mike Gustovich, the penciler/inker of the smash AVENGERS limited series, THE TERMINATRIX OBJECTIVE, found the key to staying cool was dressing down. Said Mike, "I drew mostly naked!"

Other artists discovered their own creative concepts in coolness. Inker **Keith Williams** said "I sat on a very large ice cube inking the very hot WARLOCK CHRONICLES book!" Penciler **Flint Henry,** who makes LAW DOG the hottest dog at Marvel, combined the two above answers, noting, "I worked in the buff on a giant block of ice sculpted to look like Modok!" (That Flint really needs to get out more ...!)

PUNISHER penciler **Hoang Nguyen** dodged the heat as easily as Frank Castle dodges bullets. As Hoang put it, "I stayed inside most of the time, trying to cool off with an iced tea!" BIKER MICE FROM MARS penciler **Rurik Tyler** seems to have overheated, as he queried, "Beat the heat? Is that a new character?"

On the flip side of the country, we found AMAZING SPIDER-MAN inker **Randy Emberlin,** who was deluged with so much rain this past summer, he qualifies for citizenship in Atlantis! Randy commented, "It was a cold summer! We put the air conditioner in in May, and we didn't use it but once! I think we had maybe one week of sun!"

Just goes to show you that no matter where you live, there's always someone out there with worse weather than you! Finally we have BARBIE writer **Lisa Trusiani** who offered her own unique solution as to how to beat the heat: "With a stick!" And on that note, we remind you that no matter how hot it gets, Marvel Comics do not melt — not in your mouth, and not in your hands!

THE BULL'S EYE by RICK PARKER

HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

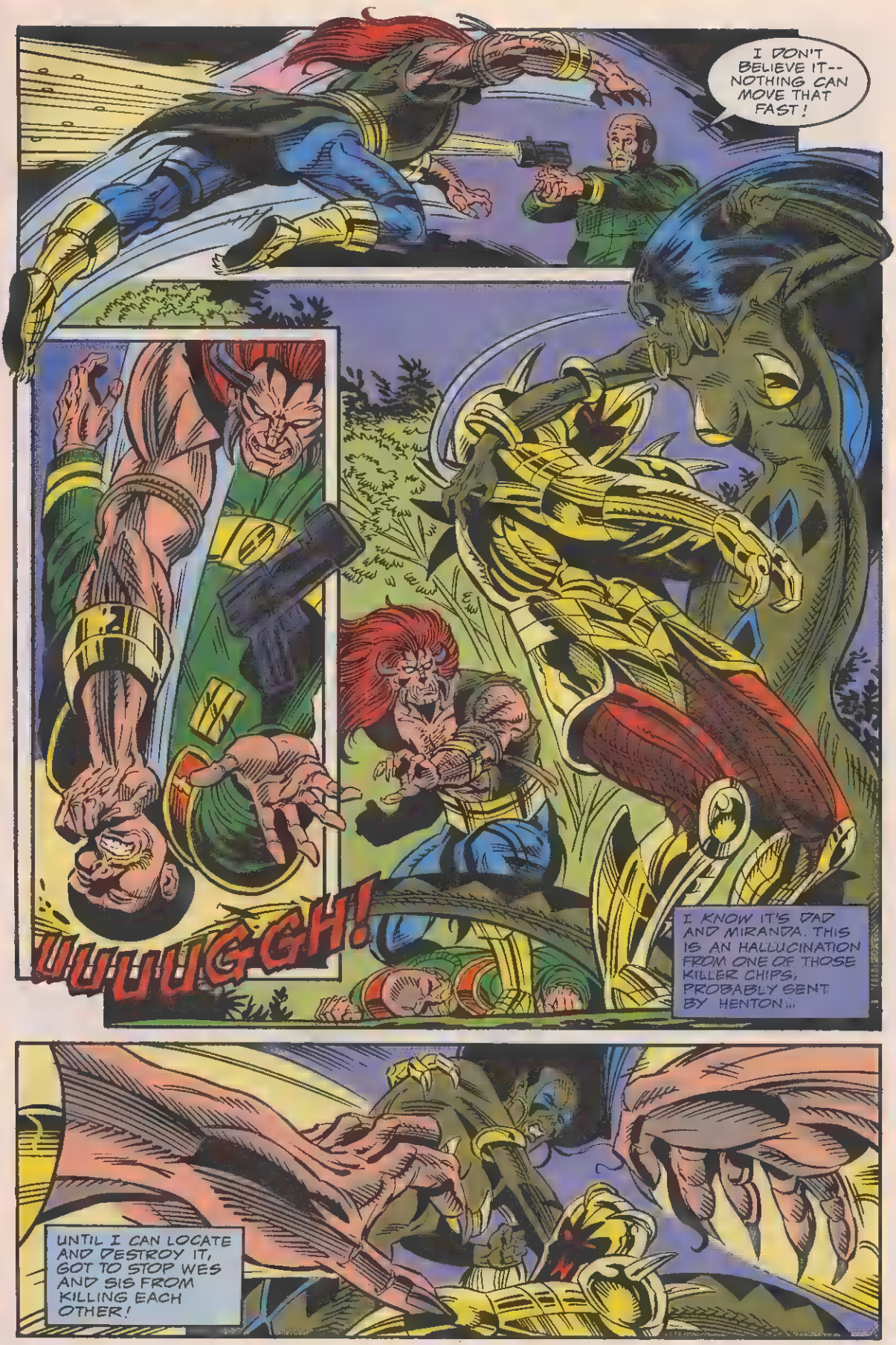
- ☐ **AKIRA TPB #10:** Graphic violence, adult themes — this one's got it all!
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #126:** Down amongst the dead!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #383:** Aleee — the **Jury!**
- ☐ **BARBIE #35:** You can teach a new puppy plenty of tricks!
- ☐ **DARKHOLD #14:** Pardon me, have you seen my **Monstrosity?**
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #43:** The secret of Ghost Rider's blazing chain!
- ☐ **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #42:** Meet **Woden,** son of Thor!
- ☐ **HEAVY HITTERS ANNUAL #1:** It will blow you through the back wall of the comic shop!
- ☐ **HYPERKIND #3:** Make a pact with the **Paxis!**
- ☐ **LAWDOG VS. GRIMROD #1:** Let's see who can hit the heaviest!
- ☐ **LETHAL FOES OF SPIDER-MAN #3 OF 4:** You want to kill Spider-Man? Get in line!
- ☐ **MARVEL COMICS #141:** With Erik Larsen writing **Wolverine!**
- ☐ **MORBIUS REVISITED #4 OF 5:** From yesteryear — an army of vampires!
- ☐ **NIGHT THRASHER #4: Aardwolf** is an 'ard wolf to beat!
- ☐ **PSYCHONAUTS #2 OF 4:** When dinosaurs attack, the Psychonauts will kick Jurassic!
- ☐ **PUNISHER WAR ZONE #21:** DX is 2 mean 2 die!
- ☐ **QUASAR #52:** Pandemonium at **Project: Pegasus** with the **Geometer!**
- ☐ **RAVAGE 2099 #12:** Guess who can transform into a crazed beast! No, it's not Tom DeFalco!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #215:** Conan must break the **Living Wind!**
- ☐ **SECRET DEFENDERS #9:** With War Machine, Thunderstrike, and **Silver Surfer!**
- ☐ **SILVER SABLE #18:** That slippery symbiote stops by — **Venom!**
- ☐ **SLEEPWALKER #30:** Just like Norman Bates ... **Psyko** returns!
- ☐ **TERRARISTS #1 OF 4:** Hit hard! Hit fast! Hit Heavy!
- ☐ **WILD THING #8:** Swimming in a Virtual Reality Swamp!
- ☐ **WOLVERINE #75:** Oh, my achin' adamantium bones ...!
- ☐ **WONDER MAN #27:** Asgardian action!
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #96:** Guest-starring **Forge!**
- ☐ **X-MEN ADVENTURES #13: Bishop** is back ... in time!

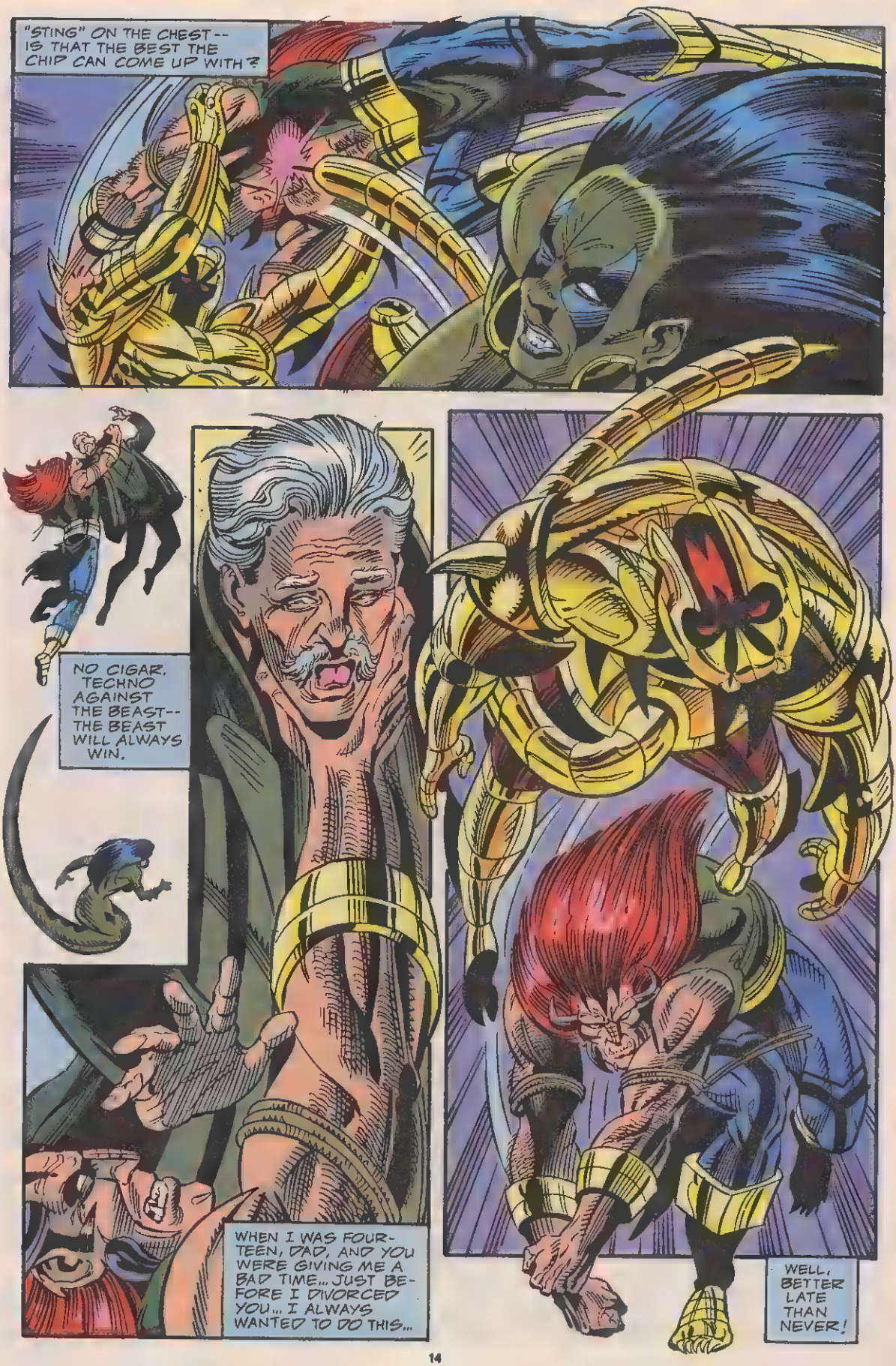
COLONY OF ANTS CREE OF BADGERS SHOAL OF BASS SLOTH OF BEARS SWARM OF BEES ARMY OF CATERPILLARS DROVE OF CATTLE BROOD OF CHICKENS RAG OF COLTS MURDER OF CROWS DOLE OF DOVES SKULK OF FOXES GAGGLE OF GEESE TRIP OF GOATS CLUSTER OF GRASSHOPPERS SIEGE OF HERONS DRIFT OF HOGS HARRAS OF HORSES PACK OF HOUNDS SWARM OF INSECTS TROOP OF KANGAROOS

RAFT OF DUCK HERD OF ELEPHANTS GANG OF ELKS BULLPEN BORDERLINE BLATHER BUSINESS OF FERRETS CHARM OF FINCHES

GET AWAY FROM ME!
SHOCK IT! ANOTHER KILLER CHIP'S RESPONSIBLE... SCREWING UP DAD AND MIRANDA'S HEADS...
TIME FOR THE BEAST TO LEND A HAND!
VENOMOUS WENCH! I MATCH YOU POISON DROP BY POISON DROP!
SSSSSSS! THE SERPENT WILL ALWAYS DEFEAT THE SCORPION!
A SCORPION MAN AND A SNAKE WOMAN?! WHAT THE SHOCK'S GOING ON?
WE NEED SOME BACK-UP -- I'LL CALL UP MY MEN!

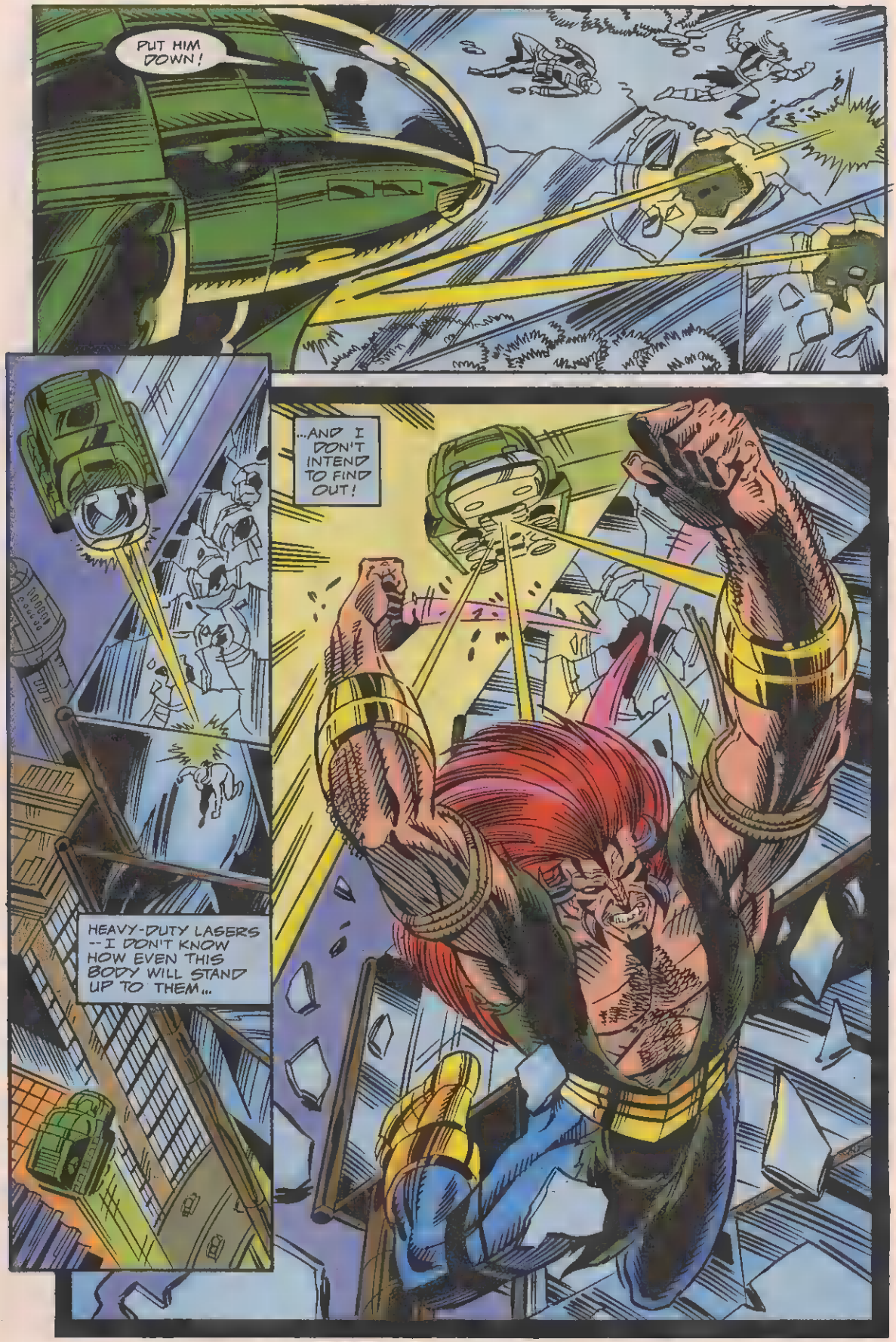
NO NEED... I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!
YOU AGAIN!
DUPLEDGE TO NEAREST ECO UNIT! URGENT ASSISTANCE REQUIRED! HOME IN ON MY SIGNAL!
I'M READY FOR YOU THIS TIME, FREAK... THESE ARE TITANIUM SHRAPNEL PERCUSSIVE ROUNDS...
THEY'LL BLOW YOU APART, WHATEVER YOU ARE-- MAN OR BEAST!


I DON'T BELIEVE IT-- NOTHING CAN MOVE THAT FAST!
UUUUGGH!
I KNOW IT'S DAD AND MIRANDA. THIS IS AN HALLUCINATION FROM ONE OF THOSE KILLER CHIPS, PROBABLY SENT BY HENTON...
UNTIL I CAN LOCATE AND DESTROY IT, GOT TO STOP WES AND SIS FROM KILLING EACH OTHER!

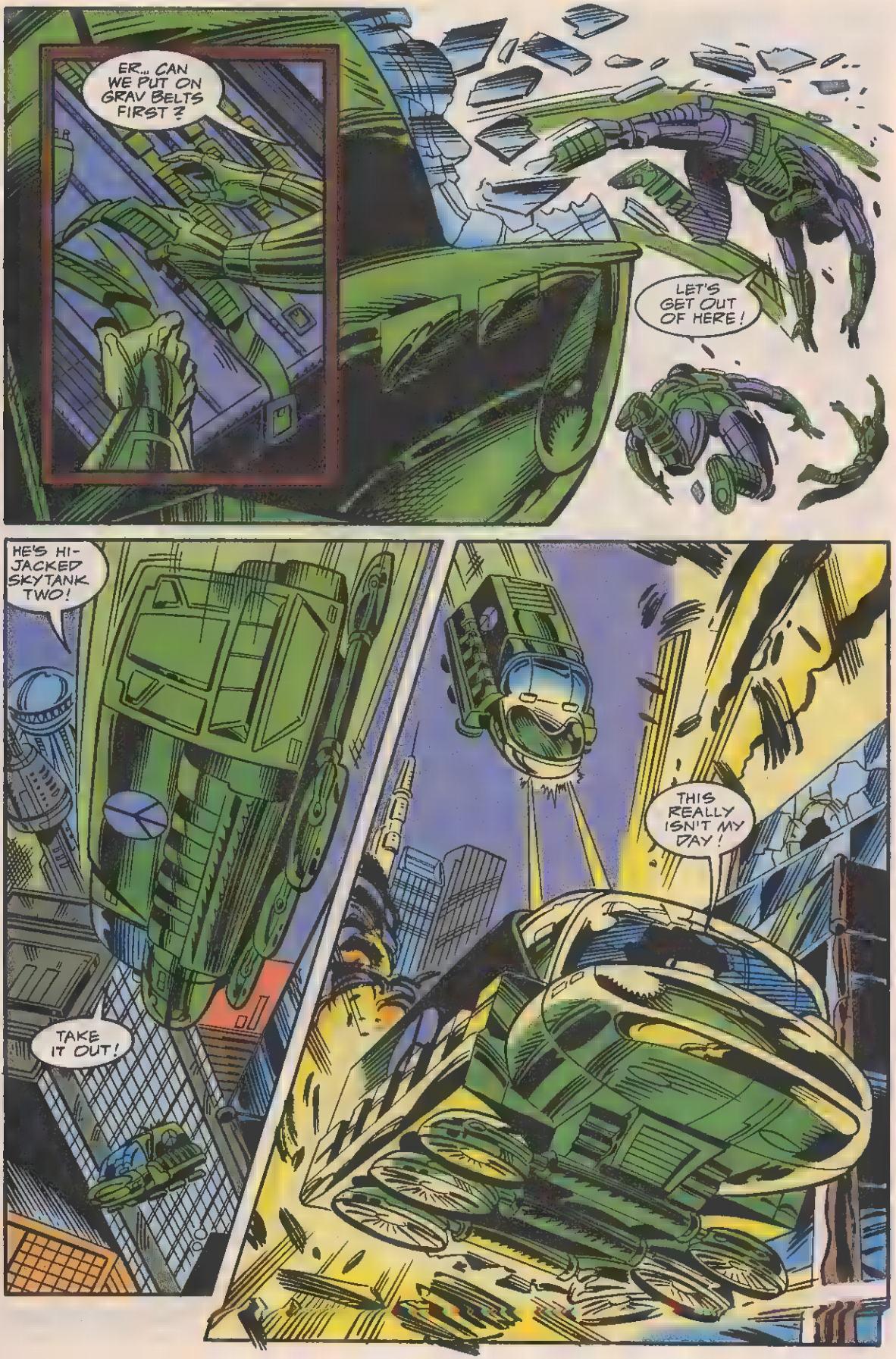

"STING" ON THE CHEST -- IS THAT THE BEST THE CHIP CAN COME UP WITH?
NO CIGAR. TECHNO AGAINST THE BEAST-- THE BEAST WILL ALWAYS WIN.
WHEN I WAS FOURTEEN, DAD, AND YOU WERE GIVING ME A BAD TIME... JUST BEFORE I DIVORCED YOU... I ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THIS...
WELL, BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!

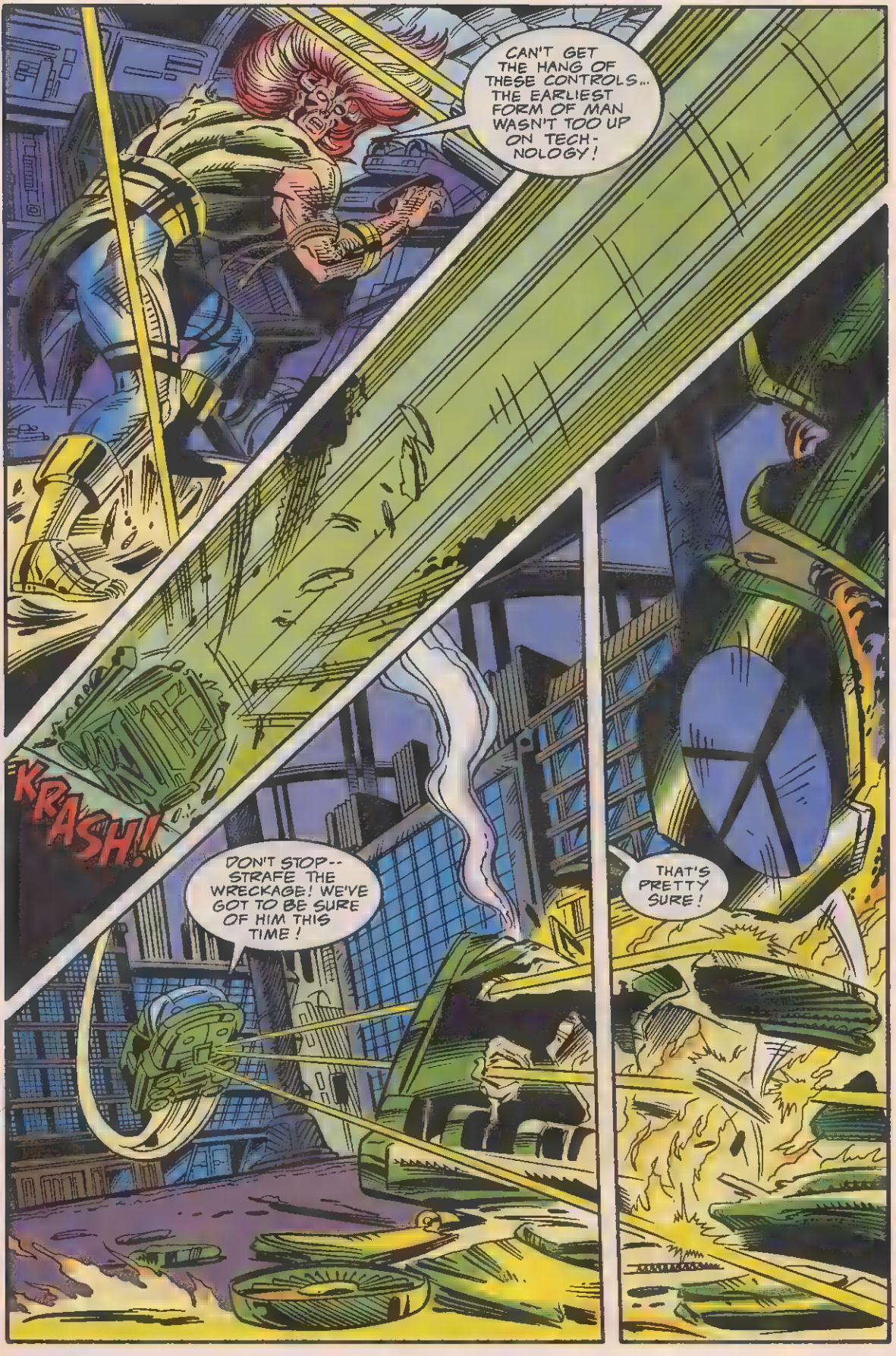
SSSSSSS! DEFEATING MY ADVERSARY WILL GAIN YOU NO MERCY FROM ME!
GOTTA FOCUS... REMEMBER THIS NIGHTMARE IS REALLY MIRANDA...
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DO THIS, SIS...
...BUT THIS SIBLING RIVALRY HAS TO STOP!

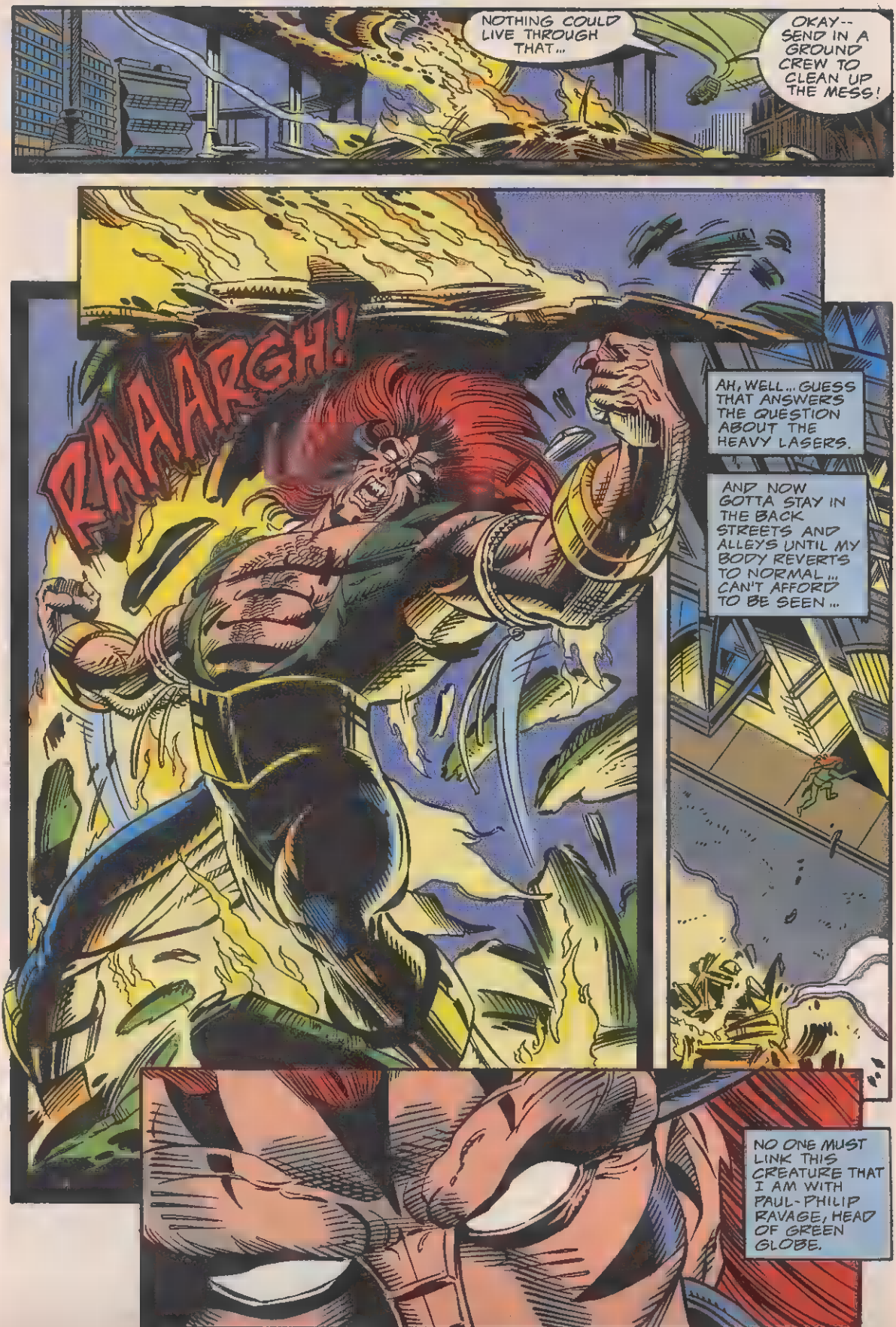
AND THERE'S THE BUG RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS...
KRUNCH!
BETTER CHECK. I DIDN'T HIT DUPLEDGE TOO HARD... MAKE SURE HE'S OKAY.
THE BEAST! HE'S ATTACKING COMMANDER DUPLEDGE!


PUT HIM DOWN!
...AND I DON'T INTEND TO FIND OUT!
HEAVY-DUTY LASERS --I DON'T KNOW HOW EVEN THIS BODY WILL STAND UP TO THEM...

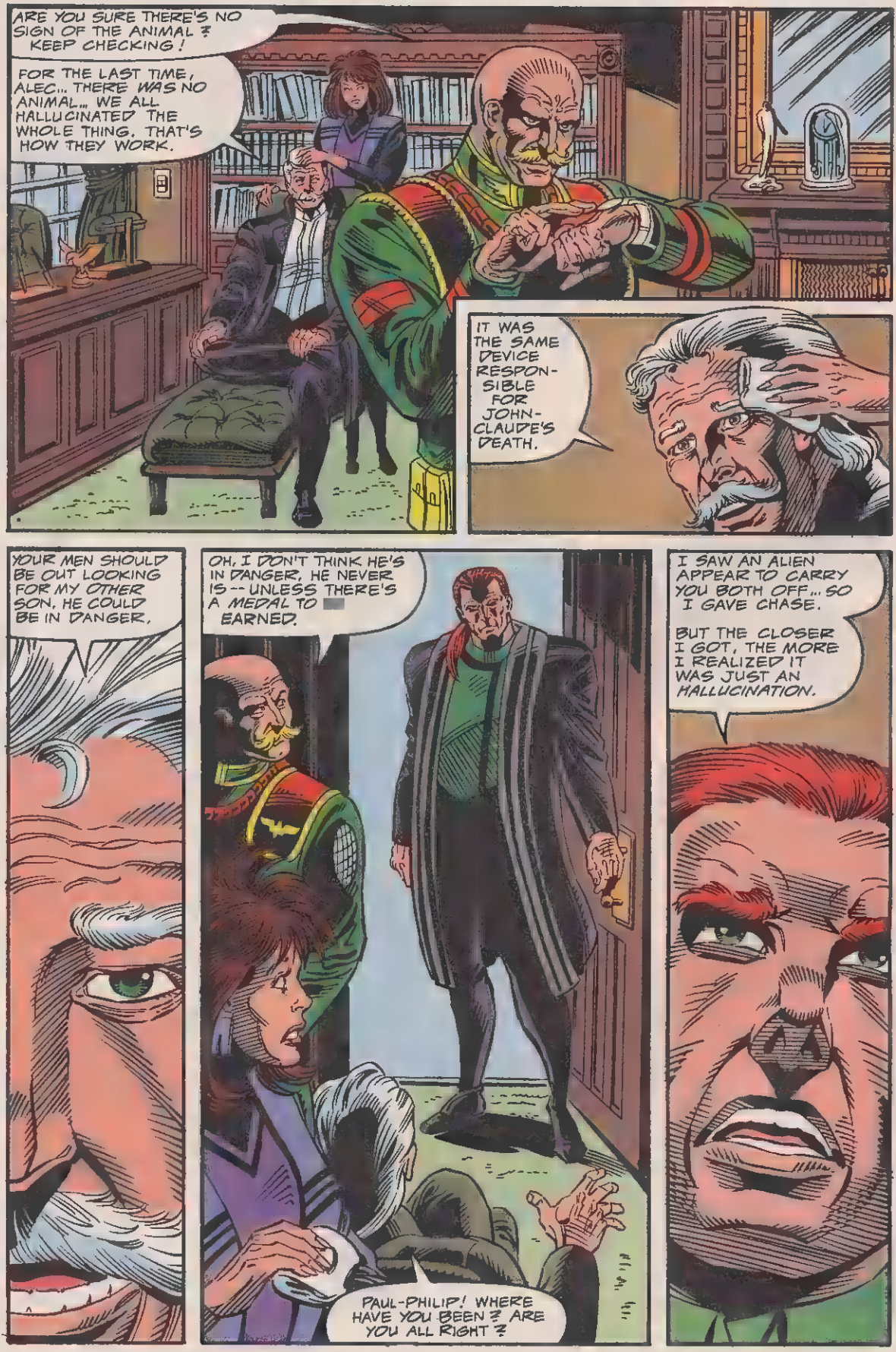
GRAAARGH!
THE BEAST!
OOF!
WHAT THE SHOCK WAS THAT?
YOU BOYS KNOW WHAT I CAN DO-- I'M GIVING YOU THE CHOICE...
...BAIL OUT OR GET SHREDDED.


ER... CAN WE PUT ON GRAV BELTS FIRST?
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
HE'S HI-JACKED SKYTANK TWO!
TAKE IT OUT!
THIS REALLY ISN'T MY DAY!


CAN'T GET THE HANG OF THESE CONTROLS.. THE EARLIEST FORM OF MAN WASN'T TOO UP ON TECH-NOLOGY!
KRASH!
DON'T STOP-- STRAFE THE WRECKAGE! WE'VE GOT TO BE SURE OF HIM THIS TIME!
THAT'S PRETTY SURE!


NOTHING COULD LIVE THROUGH THAT...
OKAY-- SEND IN A GROUND CREW TO CLEAN UP THE MESS!
RAAARGH!
AH, WELL... GUESS THAT ANSWERS THE QUESTION ABOUT THE HEAVY LASERS.
AND NOW GOTTA STAY IN THE BACK STREETS AND ALLEYS UNTIL MY BODY REVERTS TO NORMAL... CAN'T AFFORD TO BE SEEN...
NO ONE MUST LINK THIS CREATURE THAT I AM WITH PAUL-PHILIP RAVAGE, HEAD OF GREEN GLOBE.

MY LIFE'S BEEN SO CRAZY RECENTLY I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW ALL THE INFORMATION ON HENTON'S SECURITY DISC...
BUT WHAT I'VE FOUND IS DYNAMITE...
THE WHOLE OF ALCHEMAX IS CORRUPT... AND SOME OF ITS DIRECTORS ARE SO BIZARRE, THEY MAKE ME SEEM NORMAL.
THIS FEARMASTER, FOR INSTANCE -- DARRYL KING... HAS GOT SOME KIND OF ALIEN HAND -- POWERED BY NANOTECHNOLOGY...*
AND AN "ENDYMION ROOM" APPARENTLY FILLED WITH BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMEN HE'S TURNED INTO PRECIOUS MATERIALS...
HE'S THE KIND OF DERANGED SCUM I'D LIKE TO GET MY CLAWS INTO.
* SEE PUNISHER 2099 #9. -- JOEY


ARE YOU SURE THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE ANIMAL? KEEP CHECKING!
FOR THE LAST TIME, ALEC... THERE WAS NO ANIMAL... WE ALL HALLUCINATED THE WHOLE THING. THAT'S HOW THEY WORK.
IT WAS THE SAME DEVICE RESPONSIBLE FOR JOHN-CLAUDE'S DEATH.
YOUR MEN SHOULD BE OUT LOOKING FOR MY OTHER SON. HE COULD BE IN DANGER.
OH, I DON'T THINK HE'S IN DANGER. HE NEVER IS -- UNLESS THERE'S A MEDAL TO BE EARNED.
PAUL-PHILIP! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I SAW AN ALIEN APPEAR TO CARRY YOU BOTH OFF... SO I GAVE CHASE.
BUT THE CLOSER I GOT, THE MORE I REALIZED IT WAS JUST AN HALLUCINATION.

OH, COME ON -- FOR PITY'S SAKE, RAVAGE... THAT'S SO THIN, ANY-ONE CAN SEE THROUGH IT.
OKAY -- YOU WRITE THE SCENARIO. WHERE WAS I? HOW DOES YOUR FANTASY RUN?
I'M NOT SURE... BUT I'M NOT SATISFIED... EVERY INSTINCT TELLS ME THERE'S A CONNECTION BETWEEN YOU AND THAT HORNED BEAST.
ALEC -- TALK SENSE. THAT WAS JUST THE KILLER CHIP. AND THIS IS MY SON.
NO -- THE BEAST IS REAL, ALL RIGHT. I'VE SEEN IT KILL MY MEN... AND YOUR SON IS LINKED TO IT!
I'M SORRY, WES -- FAMILY OR NOT, I'M TAKING HIM IN FOR QUESTIONING!
HE'LL SOON TELL THE TRUTH AT ECO H.Q.!

HELA, QUEEN OF THE UNDERWORLD, I HAVE COME HERE TO THE CHURCH OF THOR TO BEG FOR YOUR INTERCESSION...
GIVE ME YOUR SHOES THAT I MAY WALK THE TRUE WAY.
YOU ARE KNOWN AS THE GODDESS OF ANGUISH AND MISERY TO YOUR ENEMIES...
BUT TO THOSE WHO FOLLOW YOUR PATH YOU ARE THE GODDESS OF PLENTY... AND I KNOW YOU WILL GRANT MY BOON.
SHOW ME THE WAY, HELA... I WANT TO BE SOMEONE... I'M FED UP BEING A FASHION ACCESSORY TO AN ACTION MAN...
OKAY, I NEVER NORMALLY COME HERE. AND OKAY, I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE -- BUT COME ON, GIVE ME A LIFE, WHY DON'T YOU?
YOU SEEM TROUBLED, MY CHILD.
REVEREND McADAM!

DO YOU SEEK SOLACE IN A TIME OF GRIEF?
NO, I SEEK A COSTUME AND A CAPE.
PARDON?
I WANT TO FLY THROUGH THE AIR AND BEAT UP BAD GUYS...
SORRY-- DON'T TAKE ANY NOTICE OF ME, REV. JUST FANTA-SIZING.
IT'S JUST THE IMAGE OF HELA IS REALLY INSPIRING. GIVES A NO-HOPER LIKE ME IDEAS ABOVE HER STATION...
SHE REALLY KNEW HOW TO KICK BUTT.
YES, INDEED... EVEN THOR HIMSELF RESPECTED THE MIGHTY HELA.
BUT TO--ER--PICK UP ON YOUR EARLIER POINT... YOU'RE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A...
...SUPER-HEROINE? A VERITABLE GODDESS?
RIGHT, REV-- BUT I DON'T MEAN IN SOME PHILOSOPHICAL, SPIRITUAL FASHION. I MEAN...
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN...
AND I BELIEVE I CAN HELP.
NEXT: APOCALYPSE

RANTS & RAVES

JOEY CAVALIERI — EDITOR
MATTHEW MORRA — ASSISTANT EDITOR
c/o MARVEL COMICS, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016
ALL LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS, ALTHOUGH WE WILL GLADLY WITHHOLD THAT INFO UPON REQUEST.

Out Of My Head

Except at conventions, I seldom get to hear from my old crony Scott McLeod much anymore. When you cross the International Date Line or something, his last name changes to "McCloud," so you know Scott from his great ol' *Zot!* series and his book, *Understanding Comics*.

So last week, I got not one but two letters from the guy! The first is a *birth announcement*. Scott and his lovely wife, Ivy, have had a daughter, Sky Rosamund McLeod! Yaay! I tell you all this because if there's a cooler name for a kid than "Sky McCloud," I haven't heard it yet!

The other letter was a fifty-pound chain letter. Hey Scott, friendship's got its *limits*, know'msayin'?

Dear Joey and Matt,

RAVAGE #9 was interesting. I'm eagerly looking forward to next issue. It seems Paul-Philip Ravage's turbulent life will take a sharp turn next issue. It's left me intrigued.

Knowing that they couldn't imitate Stan Lee's style, I'm glad that new writers Pat Mills and Tony Skinner aren't trying to emulate it. They bring a 90's (uh, 2090's) sensibility to this title. "Bio-Crash" had a fantastic script, and succeeded in getting me excited. It also introduced Ravage's family, which seemed suspicious to this reader. As for the direct events pertaining to Ravage, I was shocked that when he was coaxed into becoming a super hero, he pretty much accepted it. I hope that "hero" doesn't mean gritty. Ravage has always had a hot temper and has always stood up for what he believed in. But I regard Paul-Philip Ravage too highly to think he could become another vigilante or hunter on the streets of 2099. His powers are changing, and realistically, so's his attitude. Yet, the basic principles that Stan Lee introduced shouldn't be ignored by any means. Ravage is a passionate character, and takes his business with ECO seriously. I hope Pat and Tony continue to show him in that light. Their first two issues have been nothing less than excellent. Please keep it up.

I'm a great fan of Jose Delbo's work. One of the first super hero adventures I ever read was drawn by Mr. Delbo. He seemingly disappeared for a while only to return for NFL SUPERPRO and a project for another company. Inked superbly by Keith Williams, Jose's rendition of Ravage was stunning to say the least. Knowing that Grant Miehm is returning is also a pleasure. I'd love Paul Ryan to return on a regular basis, but both Grant and Jose have done jobs just as good as Paul's. What artist designed the cover? Its simple design was great.

Joey Marchese
PO Box 2197
Union, NJ 070183

Grant gets the kudos for the cover, Joey. He designed, penciled and inked it.

Dear Rants and Raves,

What can I say? I'm impressed. I thought Ravage was going to turn into a Punisher type. I stand corrected. He sure is a great character. I liked the cover to issue #9.

1) How is that disc going to help bring Alchemax down?
2) What's going to happen to Dack?
3) Will Ravage have any followers like Spider-Man 2099?
4) Who is this Avatarr?

I heard that there is a new X-MEN 2099 title. I hope it's as good as RAVAGE 2099 is.

David Cortes
PO Box 1072
Penuelas, PR 00624

Dave, all your questions'll be answered shortly in issues to come. As for X-MEN 2099, you'll see #1 by John Francis Moore (of DOOM 2099 infamy), Ron Lim and Adam Kubert probably before you read this!

Dear Joey and Matt,

It was obvious with the departure of Stan that major changes were in store for Ravage. Needless to say, they're already underway under the guidance of Pat and Tony. I'll reserve judgment on the "new" Ravage until next issue (which, by the way, does look interesting and could be quite good if done right). While my letter here on RAVAGE 2099 #9 emphasized that I like and expect change in a comic, there's one element of change introduced this ish that I don't like. That is the removal of Tiana and Dack from the book.

Stan spent so much time and energy developing these individuals into interesting supporting characters. While both of their reasons for leaving RAVAGE are logical and well thought out, I hate to see characters just thrown onto the scrapheap of comic history in the span of a few quick panels. No matter how interesting a main character is, he or she needs interesting supporting characters to better flesh out the world in which they live as well as to provide much needed character development.

If you have no plans to reintroduce Dack and Tiana into Ravage's life, then please create new supporting characters to provide these important services. I just believe that Ravage is a much more interesting character if he has a supporting cast to interact with rather than to become the loner that I fear he will.

James Evans
6621 Sutton Rd.
Madison, WI 53771

We hear you, Jim. We've brought in all of Ravage's family, a band that makes the Addams family look like a Norman Rockwell painting. And who said Tiana was going anywhere?

Dear *Rants and Raves*,

I'm glad that Grant Miehm is the new penciler of RAVAGE 2099. Don't get me wrong, I like Paul Ryan's work. It's just that he already has a regular monthly title of his own, FANTASTIC FOUR. Grant's a great artist who's received limited exposure up until now. His work has its own unique style, making it different from other comic art. Still, I felt there was something missing from his work. Now I know what: Keith Williams. His inks complement Grant's pencils perfectly. They make a great team.

Ben Herman
45 Runyon Place
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Boy, did *this* letter make two guys very happy!

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2099 UNLIMITED #2 *We couldn't be more proud of this book...scope it out 'n' see why!*

NEXT ISSUE

Hey! Ned Sonntag got the same stupid chain letter? What gives? Oh, you wanna know about next month...Okay. The Ravage family struggles over whether to withdraw from Valhalla...Tiana gets a new life...The Punisher's foe, the Fearmaster bedevils Ravage with the cybernetic Animek!